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Truman Blasts CIA

FORMER PRESIDENT Harry S. Truman, who was founder of the Central Intelligence Agency, is publicly expressing alarm over the CIA's departure from its original purpose and incursion into fields where it was never meant to trespass.

In a copyright article printed by the San Francisco Examiner, the former President recites that he established the CIA purely as a means of collecting and consolidating information from all available sources and delivering it to the President directly and without comment.

Now, he complains, the CIA has become "operational" and at times a policy-making arm of the Government and he is deeply disturbed by certain of its activities that have caused trouble and compounded difficulties in dangerously explosive areas.

THESE ACCUSATIONS are plainly deserved.

The dangerous and frequently inept meddling of the CIA—as at the Bay of Pigs and in Vietnam—has been frequently noted and decried by this newspaper. With President Truman, we insist that it abandon its mischievous adventures in espionage and intrigue and confine itself to its original assignment—the collection of undoctored information for guidance of the President.